

The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners proposes amendments to §329.1, regarding General Licensure Requirements. The amendment allows new licensees to work on the basis of website verification of licensure.

John P. Maline, Executive Director, has determined that for the first five-year period these amendments are in effect there will be no additional costs to state or local governments as a result of enforcing or administering these amendments.

Mr. Maline has also determined that for each year of the first five-year period these amendments are in effect the public benefit will be clearly identified as a more expeditious procedure will be in place for new licensee verification. Mr. Maline has determined that there will be no costs or adverse economic effects to small or micro businesses, and therefore an economic impact statement or regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for the amendment. There are no anticipated costs to individuals who are required to comply with the rule as proposed.

Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted to Karen Gordon, PT Coordinator, Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510, Austin, Texas 78701; email: karen@ptot.texas.gov. Comments must be received no later than 30 days from the date this proposed amendment is published in the *Texas Register*.

The amendments are proposed under the Physical Therapy Practice Act, Title 3, Subtitle H, Chapter 453, Texas Occupations Code, which provides the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners with the authority to adopt rules consistent with this Act to carry out its duties in administering this Act.

Title 3, Subtitle H, Chapter 453, Texas Occupations Code is affected by these amendments.

§329.1.General Licensure Requirements and Procedures.

(a) Requirements. All applications for licensure shall include:

- (1) a completed board application form with a recent color photograph of the applicant;
- (2) the non-refundable application fee as set by the executive council;
- (3) a successfully completed board jurisprudence exam on the Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act and board rules; and
- (4) documentation of academic qualifications.
 - (A) For applicants who completed their physical therapy education in the U.S., the documentation required is:
 - (i) a transcript sent directly to the board from the degree-granting institution showing enrollment in the final semester of an accredited PT or PTA program as provided in §453.203 of the Act; and
 - (ii) a statement signed by the program director or other authorized school official, notarized or with the school seal affixed, stating that the applicant has successfully completed the PT or PTA program.
 - (B) For applicants who completed their physical therapy education outside of the U.S., the documentation required is set out in §329.5 of this title (relating to Licensing Procedures for Foreign-Trained Applicants).
 - (C) For applicants who are active U.S. military service members or veterans, any military service, training or education verified and credited by an accredited PT or PTA program is acceptable to the board.

(b) Licensure by examination. If an applicant has not passed the national licensure exam, the applicant must also meet the requirements in §329.2 of this title (relating to License by Examination).

(c) Licensure by endorsement. If the applicant is licensed as a PT or PTA in another state or jurisdiction of the U.S., the applicant must also meet the requirements as stated in §329.6 of this title (relating to Licensure by Endorsement).

(d) Application expiration. An application for licensure is valid for one year after the date it is received by the board.

(e) False information. An applicant who submits an application containing false information may be denied licensure by the board.

(f) Rejection. Should the board reject an application for licensure, the reasons for the rejection will be stated. The applicant may submit additional information and request reconsideration by the board. If the applicant remains dissatisfied, a hearing may be requested as specified in the Act, §453.352.

(g) Changes to licensee information. Applicants and licensees must notify the board in writing of changes in address of record, and residential, mailing, or business addresses within 30 days of the change. For a name change at time of renewal, the licensee must submit a copy of the legal document enacting the name change with the renewal application.

(h) Replacement copy of license. The board will issue a copy of a license to replace one lost or destroyed upon receipt of a written request and the appropriate fee from the licensee. The board will issue a new original license after a name change upon receipt of a written request, the appropriate fee, and a copy of the legal document enacting the name change.

(i) A new licensee may provide physical therapy services upon online verification of licensure. The Board will maintain a secure resource for verification of license status and expiration date on its website.